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Second session
Dakar, 30 November - 11 December 1998
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Election of the President.

2. Election of other officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Credentials of delegations.

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers.

6. Other matters requiring action by the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Consideration and approval of certain parts of rules 22, 31 and 47 of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon;

(b) Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning:

(i) Institutional linkage

(ii) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany;

(c) Programme and budget:

(i) Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999

(ii) Related budget decisions

(iii) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1998

(iv) Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

(v) Programme of work for the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional programmes;

(e) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(f) Review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(g) Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions;

(h) Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions;

(i) Consideration with a view to adopting, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation;

(j) Consideration with a view to proposing for adoption, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention, an annex containing arbitration and conciliation procedures;

(k) Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;

(l) Maintenance of the roster of experts;

(m) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference.

7. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

Venue

2. By its decision 28/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties (COP) accepted the invitation of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Dakar. It was confirmed by General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 that the COP would be held in Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998. The session will, therefore, be opened by the Executive Secretary at the Méridien Conference Centre, Dakar, on Monday, 30 November 1998.

Logistic arrangements

3. A few weeks before the opening of COP 2, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures, as well as other logistic arrangements for the session.

Participants

4. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the CCD, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the CCD or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the CCD enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as of the opening of COP 2 on 30 November will be the States and regional economic integration organizations that have deposited their instruments by 1 September 1998. Those which deposit their instruments after 1 September 1998 and by 12 September 1998 will become Parties during COP 2. Those that do so after 12 September 1998 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers, along with United Nations specialized agencies, accredited intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Relevant information on the status of ratifications is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.3.

Agenda

5. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include in the agenda for its second session certain standing items on its agenda and other selected items. These have been taken into account in the provisional agenda prepared for COP 2, in addition to issues arising from other decisions.

Documentation

6. A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in Annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unccd.ch>.

1. Election of the President

7. Rule 22 of the rules of procedure adopted by the COP (document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) provides for the election of the President from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary will call for the election of the President.

2. Election of other officers

8. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure, nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, who, with the President, are to serve as the Bureau of the session, shall be elected from the representatives of the Parties present at the session. The President will call for the election of these officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The COP will have before it the above provisional agenda which it may consider adopting. Annex II contains a tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the subsections below elaborate.

Purpose of the session

10. The Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopted a decision on its programme of work (decision 9/COP.1), which included standing as well as selected items for discussion at COP 2. These items have been incorporated in the provisional agenda. The CCD provides, in article 22, paragraph 2(a), that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the CCD and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate such activities, focusing attention on outstanding issues requiring resolution.

Opening meeting

11. As to the structure of the opening plenary, the COP may wish to consider the following scenario. The President would make a statement after his or her election. Statements would be made on behalf of regional groups, to be followed by an opportunity for statements by representatives of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and one representative for non-governmental organizations. The Executive Secretary would then present an overview of issues before COP 2, introduce the documents prepared by the secretariat, and present a status report on ratifications of, or accessions to the CCD.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks

12. The practice followed at COP 1 was to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW), chaired by a Vice-President of the COP and open to participation of all delegations. This could be done at COP 2. The COW would recommend decisions on outstanding issues for adoption by the COP. Its Chair would have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. Accordingly, the COP may wish to establish a COW at its opening plenary and to designate its Chair. The COP could allocate to the COW those items on which work from COP 1 remains outstanding, including any adjustment to the programme and budget, and the unagreed paragraphs of the rules of procedure referred to below, consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions, consideration of annexes for conciliation and arbitration procedures and the possible elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex.

Committee on Science and Technology

13. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is tentatively scheduled to meet from 1 to 3 December. In accordance with decision 16/COP.1, the secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1 containing a provisional annotated agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations, which are listed in annex I.

Initial segment

14. It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 2 be divided into two segments. During the initial segment from 30 November to 7 December, in addition to the CST meeting, the COW would advance in its work in accordance with the agenda of the COP. The plenary would meet on Friday 4 December to hear reports from the COW and the CST, to take all possible decisions on issues before the COP, to review the organization of work for the second week, and to provide for further meetings of the COW if necessary.

Special segment on Convention implementation

15. At the special segment on 8 and 9 December, Parties with representation at the appropriate level would have an opportunity to make statements on ways and means by which the COP could promote timely and effective implementation of the Convention.

16. By its decision 9/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties decided to review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of statements and documents presented by delegations at its second session, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. The COP will have before it document ICCD/COP(2)/5, which will contain a report by the secretariat on activities which it has supported or in which it has participated since COP 1. The special segment could also take decisions on any issues remaining outstanding after the first week.

Parallel event

17. An interparliamentary round table on the contribution parliaments can make to the implementation of the Convention is being planned for Monday 7 December 1998, to be chaired by a member of the National Assembly of Senegal. It would involve the participation of parliamentarians from a number of countries. It is anticipated that any result from the round table would be communicated to the COP for consideration.

Concluding plenary

18. The concluding plenary of COP 2 will take any decisions not previously adopted. It will also have before it for adoption the report on credentials to be submitted by the Bureau. Finally, it will have to decide upon the date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties, taking account of:

(a) Article 22, paragraph 4 of the CCD which provides that, unless otherwise decided by the COP, the third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly;

(b) Rule 4, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, which provides that, at each ordinary session, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session and that the COP should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult;

(c) Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which states that the sessions of the COP shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties; and

(d) Any offers to host the third session and cover the incremental costs thereof.

19. The proposed schedule allows for the afternoon of 10 December to be available for the preparation of final documents for consideration and decision at the final plenary on the morning of 11 December. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by the lunch break on 10 December.

Times of meetings

20. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with local working hours and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of COP 2 will be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings to be held with services at any one time.

4. Credentials of delegations

21. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides: "The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization." Rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides: "The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision." In addition, rule 21 provides: "Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials."

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers

22. Article 22, paragraph 7 of the CCD provides: "The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object". Rule 7 of the rules of procedure contains provisions to similar effect.

23. COP 1 adopted a decision on the accreditation of a certain number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the COP (decision 26/COP.1).

24. Document ICCD/COP(2)/12 contains a list of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations newly proposed for accreditation at the COP.

25. The COP is invited to take action on the recommendations in accordance with the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

6. Other matters requiring action by the Conference of the Parties

(a) *Consideration and approval of certain parts of rules 22, 31 and 47 of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon*

26. In accordance with article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the CCD, the COP shall "agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure ... for itself and any subsidiary bodies." At its first session, in its decision 1/COP.1, the COP decided to adopt its rules of procedure with the exception of the phrase "in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention", in paragraph 1 of rule 22, with the exception of the same phrase in rule 31, and with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 47.

27. The COP may wish to give further consideration to these outstanding issues and adopt by consensus the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon.

(b) *Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning*

(i) Institutional linkage

28. In its decision 4/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties noted with appreciation the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A./AC.241/55. At its fifty-second session, the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997,

approved the institutional linkage between the secretariat and the United Nations, in accordance with the offer of the Secretary-General and as accepted by the Conference of the Parties. The report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of decision 4/COP.1 is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/9. The COP will be asked to approve the arrangements in accordance with the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(ii) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany

29. In accordance with decision 5/COP.1, the Executive Secretary entered into negotiations for a headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany and the United Nations. The results of the negotiations are reflected in document ICCD/COP(2)/8, which will be before the Conference of the Parties together with ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.1, which will contain the headquarters agreement for adoption by the COP. The COP will also have before it, for consideration, a report by the secretariat on the relocation to Bonn and possible liaison arrangements (ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.2). The COP will be invited to consider and adopt the draft decision on the subject contained in ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(c) *Programme and budget*

(i) Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999

30. Article 22, paragraph 2(g) of the Convention calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake necessary arrangements for their financing. At its first session, the COP approved in its decision 6/COP.1 the core budget of the Convention for 1999 and requested the Executive Secretary to report to COP 2 "any proposed adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999, on a detailed basis, including programme expenditure, overhead charges and offsetting contributions, taking account particularly of revisions deriving from the decisions on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat". The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/2. At its first session, by decision 7/COP.1, the COP also noted the estimated requirements for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund and requested the Executive Secretary to propose to the COP, at its second session, any related adjustments that might be required for 1999. The COP will be invited to consider the relevant draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(ii) Related budget decisions

31. As detailed in documents ICCD/COP(2)/2 and ICCD/COP(2)/13, the decision on programme and budget that the COP will consider for adoption contains all elements required by the CCD and the financial rules of the COP.

(iii) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1998

32. Document ICCD/COP(2)/3 provides actual and estimated expenditures in 1998 from the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188. Additionally, a summary report on expenditures from the same funds from 1993 to 1997, is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.2.

(iv) Medium-term strategy for the secretariat

33. The secretariat has prepared a discussion paper (ICCD/COP(2)/6) on a proposed medium-term strategy for the secretariat, which the COP may wish to review and discuss. Provision has been tentatively made for such discussion on the afternoon of Wednesday, 2 December.

(v) Programme of work for the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

34. A draft decision on the programme of work for the third and fourth sessions of the COP is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(d) *Review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional programmes*

35. In accordance with article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b), and article 26, of the Convention, the COP is to review implementation of the CCD and its institutional arrangements. Participants will have an opportunity to conduct such a review during the special segment on Convention implementation on 8 and 9 December. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided that the review of implementation at COP 2 would be conducted on the basis of statements and documents presented by delegations at that session. The secretariat has supplemented this information to be presented with a report on activities which have been funded through it or in which it has participated since the period covered in document ICCD/COP(1)/7, and this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/5.

36. Included in that report is information on facilitation provided by the Executive Secretary for the effective and efficient functioning of regional action programmes, in accordance with decision 12/COP.1, paragraph (d). Provision has tentatively been made for discussion of implementation at the regional level on the morning of Wednesday, 2 December.

37. During COP 1, the President noted statements (ICCD/COP(1)/11,paragraph 53) made by some countries of Central and Eastern Europe concerning their wish to establish an additional regional instrument to the present Convention that would cover the specific concerns of these countries as well as the special commitments they are prepared to undertake within the framework of the Convention. This matter will be before the COP for discussion and any action the COP may wish to take.

(e) *Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it*

38. In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, the review of the CST report constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the COP. The report of the Committee will describe the CST work programme in the period after COP 2. The CST will also be transmitting to it draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at is second session. The COP may wish to discuss the programme of work, make suggestions for its revision and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

(f) *Review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it*

39. In its decision 24/COP.1, the COP identified the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreed on its modalities. In its decision 25/COP.1, the COP decided that the agreement contained in the annex to that decision would serve as the initial basis for collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism by IFAD, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. In decision 24/COP.1, the secretariat was requested, in consultation with the organization housing the Global Mechanism, as well as the two other collaborating organizations, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the COP and IFAD for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/4, a draft memorandum of understanding is contained in ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, and a draft decision in ICCD/COP(2)/13. The COP will hear and consider a report from the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism on behalf of the President of IFAD, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Convention and COP decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1. In addition, the COP will hear and consider a report of IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank on collaborative institutional arrangements, in accordance with the reporting requirements of decision 25/COP.1.

(g) *Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions*

40. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention. There will be an opportunity during the special segment on Convention implementation for relevant agencies and institutions to give information on support they have provided, including financial support, to affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention by those Parties.

(h) *Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions*

41. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include the topic of the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention as a standing item on its agenda. In addition, the Executive Secretary was requested to report to the second session of the COP on the implementation of decision 13/COP.1 on collaboration with other conventions. The COP will have before it a report prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with the secretariats of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. This will be contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/7. The COP may wish to consider the related draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(i) *Consideration with a view to adopting, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation*

42. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its second session the consideration, with a view to the adoption, pursuant to article 27, of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation of the CCD. Document ICCD/COP(2)/10 contains a report prepared by the secretariat on this matter. The report includes a draft text which takes into account document A/AC.241/50 which was previously considered by members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD) at its eighth session. The Conference may wish to consider and adopt the related draft decision which is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(j) *Consideration with a view to proposing for adoption, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention, an annex containing arbitration and conciliation procedures*

43. In its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its second session the consideration, with a view to proposing it for adoption, in accordance with article 28, paragraph 2(a) of the CCD, of an annex containing arbitration procedures. Document ICCD/COP(2)/10 contains draft texts on arbitration procedures as well as conciliation procedures, which are the subject of article 28, paragraph 6. The report includes draft texts which take into account document A/AC.241/51 which was previously presented to members of the INCD at its eighth session. The Conference may wish to consider and adopt the related draft decision which is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13.

(k) *Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the COP*

44. By decision 27/COP.1, the COP requested that additional open dialogue sessions organized by NGOs occur within the official programme of work of future sessions of the COP, and that the secretariat of the Convention make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two half-day NGO sessions

within the official programme of work. Such sessions would be organized in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the COP through the President.

45. Half-day sessions have been tentatively scheduled for the afternoons of Thursday 3 and 10 December.

46. The COP may wish to consider requesting the secretariat, drawing on discussions at COP 2 and in consultation with the NGO community, to develop a draft work programme on this item for consideration at COP 3.

(l) *Maintenance of the roster of experts*

47. Article 24, paragraph 2 of the CCD provides that the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Procedures related to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts were adopted by the COP in its decision 18/COP.1. In accordance with decision 19/COP.1, Parties were asked to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas were addressed in particular by making the roster more balanced in terms of gender representation, ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines and increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations. The updated roster is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/11 and is being made available in electronic form in accordance with decision 19/COP.1.

(m) *Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference*

48. Article 24, paragraph 3 of the CCD provides for the creation of ad hoc panels as necessary by the Conference of the Parties. In decision 22/COP.1, the COP created an ad hoc panel on benchmarks and indicators. After considering the report of the CST, the COP may wish to consider appointing ad hoc panels, including reappointing the ad hoc panel already established, as necessary, in accordance with the procedures contained in decision 17/COP.1 for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

7. Report of the session

49. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final plenary, in accordance with established practice. The COP is invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF RELEVANCE

ICCD/COP(2)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(2)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/4	Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1	Global Mechanism: Memorandum of Understanding
ICCD/COP(2)/5	Review of implementation, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(2)/6	Medium-term strategy for the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/7	Collaboration with other conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/8	Headquarters arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.1	Headquarters arrangements: agreement
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.2	Headquarters arrangements: relocation and possible liaison arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/9	Administrative and support arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/10	Resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation procedures
ICCD/COP(2)/11	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(2)/12	List of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(2)/13	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report (1993-1997)
ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.3	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

List of documents prepared for the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(2)CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators: report of ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5	Traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5/Add.1	Supplementary report on traditional knowledge

Other documents:

First session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(1)/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/1/Corr.1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/1/Corr.1/Rev.1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/2	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
CCD/COP(1)/2/Corr.1	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(1)/3	Programme and budget

ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: budget estimates for 1999
ICCD/COP(1)/4	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(1)/4/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(1)/5	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add. 1	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.2	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/Add.2/Rev.1	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/6	Proposed roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1	Proposed roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(1)/7	Urgent action in Africa and interim measures: compilation of information
ICCD/COP(1)/8	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation or observer status
ICCD/COP(1)/9	Adoption of recommendations to the Conference and other decisions and conclusions requiring action by the Conference of the Parties: Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
ICCD/COP(1)/10	Credentials of the representatives of Parties
ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part One)
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part Two)
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1	Letter dated 22 September 1997 from the representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Desertification Office of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.2	Letter dated 24 September 1997 from the representative of the United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3	Letter dated 30 September 1997 from the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/Inf. 1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(1)/Inf. 2	Information for participants on parallel events

First session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators

ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5	Reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities

Selected other documents for reference at the second session of the Conference of the Parties

Documents prepared for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD):

A/AC.241/44	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

Others:

Eighth session

A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration

Ninth session

A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention

Tenth session (first part)

A/AC.241/68	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in implementation of the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/Inf.4	Report on ongoing work being done on benchmarks and indicators

Reports of INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session
A/51/76/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its ninth session
A/52/82	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (first part)
A/52/82/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (resumed part)

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

- Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

- Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Resolution 51/238 of 17 June 1997

- Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund.

Resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997

- Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

Any relevant resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK - SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Monday 30 November 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	Informal consultations	1. Opening of the Conference by Executive Secretary of CCD 2. Election of President of COP 3. Statement by the President 4. Statement by Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations 5. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization 6. Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization 7. Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development 8. Statement by the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility 9. Statements by other heads of United Nations agencies and programmes and executive secretaries of Convention secretariats 10. Statement by representative of non-governmental organizations 11. Statement by Executive Secretary of CCD 12. Adoption of the agenda (ICCD/COP(2)/1) 13. Election of other officers, including Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology 14. Adoption of organization of work and establishment of Committee of the Whole (ICCD/COP(2)/1) 15. Admission of observers and accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (ICCD/COP(2)/12)
COW	- -	- -
CST	- -	- -

Tuesday 1 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	- Other statements by Parties and observers	To be determined
COW	To be determined	- -
CST	Organization of work (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1) - Review of outstanding items - Establishment of roster of experts (ICCD/COP(2)/11) - Survey and evaluation (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2 and Add.1)	- Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3 and Add.1) - Bodies doing work of relevance to CST (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4)
Wednesday 2 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	Organization of work including review of outstanding items - Consider action on outstanding rules of procedure (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) - Review of implementation at the regional level (CCD/COP(2)/5) - Other issues related to Convention implementation at the regional level - Report of Global Mechanism (ICCD/COP(2)/4 and Add.1)	Designation of Permanent Secretariat - Institutional linkage (ICCD/COP(2)/9) - Headquarters agreement with Germany (ICCD/COP(2)/8, Add.1 and Add.2)
CST	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5 and Add.1)	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5 and Add.1)

	Thursday 3 December 1998	
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	- Programme and budget - Adjustments to 1999 Convention budget (ICCD/COP(2)/2) - Extrabudgetary funding (ICCD/COP(2)/3 and Add.1) - Medium-term strategy for secretariat (ICCD/COP(2)/6) - Work Programme for COP 3 and COP 4	Inclusion of activities of NGOs within the official programme of work of the COP
CST	- Programme of work for CST - Drafting of recommendations to COP	- Adoption of recommendations to COP
	Friday 4 December 1998	
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	- Designation of Permanent Secretariat - Institutional linkage - Headquarters agreement with Germany - Report from Committee of the Whole - Report of CST - Outstanding rules of procedure	To be determined
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- -	- -

Monday 7 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PARALLEL EVENT	- Interparliamentary round table	- Interparliamentary round table
COW	- -	- -
CST	- -	- -
Tuesday 8 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
PLENARY	Special segment - Ways and means to promote the timely and effective implementation of the Convention, including support by multilateral agencies and institutions (ICCD/COP(2)/5, and statements and documents presented by delegations)	Special segment - Ways and means to promote the timely and effective implementation of the Convention
COW	- Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions (ICCD/COP(2)/7) - Procedures for resolution of questions on implementation (ICCD/COP(2)/10) - Procedures for arbitration and conciliation (ICCD/COP(2)/10)	To be determined
CST	- -	- -

Wednesday 9 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment - Ways and means to promote the timely and effective implementation of the Convention	Conclusion of special segment - Ways and means to promote the timely and effective implementation of the Convention
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- -	- -
Thursday 10 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Report on conclusions of the Committee of the Whole	Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official work programme of the COP
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- -	- -
Friday 11 December 1998		
	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Adoption of conclusions of the Committee of the Whole and other actions to be taken by the COP - Other decisions - Report of the session	To be determined

ICCD/COP(2)/1/Corr.1

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UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(2)/1/Corr.1
16 September 1998

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Second session
Dakar, 30 November - 11 December 1998
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

Corrigendum

Paragraph 25

Delete in accordance with the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13

Paragraph 28, last sentence

For the arrangements read these arrangements
Delete in accordance with the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13

Paragraph 29

Delete the last sentence

Paragraph 30

Delete the last sentence

Paragraph 31

For documents read document
Delete and ICCD/COP(2)/13
For contains read will contain

Paragraph 34

For is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/13 read will be submitted for consideration

Paragraph 39, lines 11-13

The sentence should read

The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/4 and a draft memorandum of understanding is contained in ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

Paragraph 41

Delete the last sentence

Paragraph 42

Delete the last sentence

Paragraph 43

Delete the last sentence

Annex I

Delete	ICCD/COP(2)/13	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
Add	ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.4	UNCCD Preliminary Directory
After	ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, add and Corr.1	

UNITED NATIONS

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MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

ADJUSTMENT TO THE CONVENTION BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR 1999

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Having considered the budget estimates for 1999 submitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its first session1/, the COP:

(a) By decision 6/COP.1, approved expenditures for the Convention totalling US$ 6,100,000 for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998/1999. This amount included an estimated provision for overhead charges to be levied by the United Nations in compensation for the administrative support to be provided to the Convention; it also included provision of 8.3 per cent of total estimated expenditure to constitute the working capital reserve called for by Financial Rule 8. The budget decision did not however make provision for offsetting contributions, because no information on those contributions was available to the COP at that time. The COP requested the Executive Secretary "...to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999, on a detailed basis, including programme expenditure, overhead charges and offsetting contributions, taking account particularly of revisions deriving from the decision on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat."

(b) By decision 7/COP.1, took note of the estimated requirements for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund submitted by the Executive Secretary, and requested him "...to report to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the status of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999."

2. This report is submitted in pursuance of the requests quoted above. It reflects, with respect to the initial proposals placed before COP 1, all updated information available to the secretariat at this time. In addition, it includes the estimated cost of decisions taken by COP 1 regarding the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), for which no corresponding financial provision was made. This report does not, however, make provision for possible future decisions of COP 2 regarding the work programme of the CST; should such decisions be taken, the corresponding financial implications will be drawn to the attention of the Conference. Finally, it proposes some minor adjustments which are, in the view of the Executive Secretary, necessary for the good order of the secretariat in 1999. As regards financial data, the costing is based on standard salary costs in Bonn and Geneva, as provided by the United Nations, and on the United Nations currently assumed rates of exchange of DM 1.83 and SFR 1.42 per United States dollar. A 5 per cent turnover deduction has been applied to core budget staffing costs. The costings also assume that, on the average, secretariat staff will take up their duties in Bonn as of 1 February 1999. In the interest of brevity, programmatic information contained in ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1, and which is since unchanged, has not been repeated in this document; an overall perspective of future programme developments, and of the secretariat's role therein is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/6. As regards the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, this report updates the estimates initially presented to COP 1.

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW FOR 1999

A. The core budget

3. In terms of decision 6/COP.1, the COP approved a staffing table comprising 21 Professional and 11 General Service posts, for a total of 32 posts. It also approved expenditures totalling US$ 6,100,000 for the programme as a whole. Of this amount, however, US$ 1,003,000 is set aside for the Global Mechanism; overhead charges amount to US$ 648,000; and US$ 467,500 is provided for the working capital reserve. Furthermore, the COP decision included the expectation of a further reduction of US$ 600,000 as a result of lower salary

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1/ ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1

costs in Bonn. Thus, the amount available for programme requirements of the secretariat for 1999 would be only US$ 3,381,500. As direct staff costs alone for the 32 approved posts for 1999 are estimated, at Bonn rates, at approximately US$ 2,851,000, there would remain provision of only some US$ 530,000 for other than staff costs, - i.e. for communications, other general operating expenses, travel and consultants - for which purposes an estimate of US$ 1,439,000 had been submitted to COP 1. It is evidently not possible for the secretariat to operate at that reduced level of expenditure. In these circumstances, the revised estimates provided hereunder have been prepared on the basis of the approved staffing table and, as regards other objects of expenditure, with maximum restraint, with a view not to exceed the ceiling of US$ 6,100,000 approved by COP 1. However, to this latter amount must be added the estimated financial implications for 1999 of the decision taken by COP 1 related to the appointment of an ad hoc panel of experts on benchmarks and indicators (decision 22/COP.1); the related estimates (see paragraph 15 below) amount for 1999 to US$ 133,000. As the corresponding percentages for overhead and the working capital reserve must be added to this figure, the total expenditure level proposed for 1999 is US$ 6,262,800 (i.e. US$ 6,100,000 as approved by COP 1, plus US$ 133,000 in respect of decision 22/COP.1, plus US$ 29,800 additional overhead and working capital reserve charges). Offsetting contributions are estimated at US$ 1,306,000, for a net charge to Parties of US$ 4,956,800.

4. The 21 Professional posts approved by COP 1 comprise 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 2 P-4, 6 P-3 and 5 P-2 posts. In view of the level of knowledge and experience which will be required in the secretariat, the Executive Secretary considers that it would be appropriate to increase the number of P-4 levels by two, with a corresponding reduction at the P-2 level, for a total of four P-4 and 3 P-2 posts. The estimates in this document incorporate this minor change. They also include a small organizational change, which is the transfer of information systems support from the Administration Unit to the External Relations and Public Information Unit. This change recognizes the role of information systems in facilitating the flow of information among the parties to the process.

B. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

5. In document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1, proposals were made for the use of the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules, and of the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules. Those proposals totalled, respectively, US$ 8,177,300 and US$ 550,000. They have been carefully reviewed, and revised proposals in this report suggest a level of expenditure in the amount of US$ 7,442,800 for the Supplementary Fund, or a reduction of close to 10 per cent in comparison to the proposals put forward to COP 1. The use of the Supplementary Fund would be concentrated, in accordance with its terms of reference, in the facilitation and external relations and public information programmes, and would be designed especially to assist, on request, affected developing country Parties, and also help in the coordination with non-governmental organizations, in public awareness, and in the development of an information and library service. The proposed use of the Supplementary Fund also includes some limited staff support in both the facilitation and the external relations and public information units. As regards the Special Fund, it would be used, in accordance with its terms of reference, to support the participation of representatives of affected developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies. On the basis of COP 1 experience and of the increased number of Parties, it is estimated that US$ 900,000 would be required in 1999 for COP 3 and the simultaneous meeting of CST.

III. THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

A. Policy-making organs

(Legislative basis: CCD articles 22 and 24)

Table 1. Summary of requirements for policy-making organs (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Special Fund	Total
Travel of representatives from Parties	-	*900.0*	*900.0*
Travel of staff	*32.0*	-	*32.0*
Hospitality	*10.0*	-	*10.0*
Total	**42.0**	**900.0**	**942.0**

6. By decision 9/COP.1, the COP included a number of standing items on its agenda, and also a number of selected items on its agenda for the second session and, if necessary, its third session. The COP also recalled the requirements of article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention that the COP shall at its third session review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of that review, consider and take appropriate action.

7. By decision 16/COP.1, the COP decided that at each session the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention, and that the first such issue shall be traditional knowledge. Accordingly, it is likely that a possible further subject to be entrusted to an ad hoc panel could relate to traditional and local technology.

8. No change appears to be needed for the CCD core budget if the third session of the COP is held outside of headquarters. In the event that COP 3 is convened at Bonn, the additional costs for local expenses (messengers, other general temporary assistance, rental of equipment and the rental of conference spaces) would have to be included in the budget and updated estimates would be submitted in due time. In all cases, the main servicing of the COP 3 would be covered by the regular budget of the United Nations as approved by General Assembly resolution A/52/198 of 18 December 1997.

9. In terms of that resolution, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998/1999, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium. Accordingly, requirements for meeting services for the third session of the COP will be met by the United Nations. As regards additional core requirements, an amount of US$ 42,000 is requested in respect of travel of technical secretariat staff from New York (US$ 32,000) and hospitality (US$ 10,000).

10. The previous estimate of US$ 550,000 to be met by the Special Fund to cover the participation in COP 3 of representatives of affected developing country Parties has been increased to US$ 900,000 in the light of experience, the increase in the number of Parties and also to permit assistance in respect of attendance to meetings of the Bureau.

B. Executive direction and management

(Legislative basis: UNCCD article 23)

Table 2. Summary of requirements for executive direction and management (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
Staff costs	*480.0*	-	*480.0*
Other personnel-related costs	-	*55.0*	*55.0*
Consultants and experts	*42.0*	-	*42.0*
Travel of staff	*99.0*	-	*99.0*
Hospitality	*4.0*	-	*4.0*
Total	**625.0**	*55.0*	**680.0**

Table 3. Summary of staff requirements for executive direction and management

	Core budget	*Supplementary Fund*	*Total*
A. Professional category and above			
Head	*1*	-	*1*
D-1	*1*	-	*1*
P-3	*1*	-	*1*
Subtotal A	**3**	-	**3**
B. General Service category	*2*	1	*3*
Total (A + B)	**5**	1 *	**6**

* It is foreseen to have the assistance of 1 General Service staff who would be funded by funds earmarked for this purpose.

11. The Executive Secretary is assisted by a deputy at the D-1 level, a special Assistant and two General Service posts. Related staff costs are estimated at US$ 480,000 for 1999. Other than staff costs, the estimates include provision for consultants, travel and hospitality in a total amount of US$ 145,000. Total expenditures for this programme are therefore estimated at US$ 625,000 to be met from the core budget and a further US$ 55,000 as a charge for temporary assistance to be met by the Supplementary Fund.

C. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

(Legislative basis: CCD article 23.2(a) as related to articles 21, 22 and 24)

Table 4. Summary of requirements for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core	Supplementary Fund	Total
Staff costs	*442.0*	-	*442.0*
Consultants and experts	*153.0*	-	*153.0*
Travel of staff	*65.0*	-	*65.0*
Contractual services	*15.0*	-	*15.0*
Total	**675.0**	-	**675.0**

Table 5. Summary of staff requirements for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
A. *Professional category and above*			
P-5	*2*	*1*	*3*
P-3	*1*	-	*1*
P-2	*1*	-	*1*
Subtotal A	**4**	**1**	**5**
B. General Service category	*1*	-	*1*
Total (A + B)	**5**	**1 ***	**6**

* It is foreseen to have the assistance of a Senior Scientific Officer who would be funded on a secondment basis.

12. A full description of the programme of work to be undertaken by this unit is contained in paragraphs 19 to 26 of document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1.

13. At its first session, the COP took a number of decisions on the work programme of the CST. These decisions relate to traditional knowledge (decision 20/COP.1); to other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST (decision 21/COP.1); to work on benchmarks and indicators, including the appointment of an ad hoc panel of experts (decision 22/COP.1); and to the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies (decision 23/COP.1).

14. As regards the survey and evaluation of existing networks, the Conference in terms of decision 23/COP.1 approved the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to undertake the first phase of such work at a cost of US$ 467,000, including programme support costs, and requested the head of the secretariat to enter into any necessary contractual arrangements for completion of the work. In terms of paragraph 4 of this decision, a call was made for voluntary contributions to fund the related work. In pursuance of this mandate,

the secretariat has sought and obtained voluntary contributions to implement the decision of the Conference; voluntary contributions received, or for which firm pledges exist, are expected to cover this cost. UNEP has been asked to quote the anticipated cost of the second phase of the survey in its interim report to COP 2; that report will be contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1. As the cost of this second phase is yet unknown, and will in any case need to be approved by the Conference, the related financial implications will be brought to the attention of the Conference for incorporation into the budget decision.

15. Another important part of the work programme in 1999 in the substantive area will likely concern benchmarks and indicators. The COP at its first session (decision 22/COP.1) requested the secretariat to establish and continue an informal open-ended consultative process on this subject, to review the methodology on impact indicators contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1 and to submit its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The COP further appointed an hoc panel in accordance with article 24 of the Convention to act as a steering committee to oversee the continuation of that process. Although this work was mandated, no corresponding budgetary provision was made with respect to funding either the meeting of the ad hoc panel or the informal process. Because of the urgency of the matter, the secretariat has in the meantime sought and obtained voluntary contributions to start putting into effect, in 1998, the decision of the Conference. Given the sustained interest of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD), the ensuing decision of the COP to appoint an ad hoc panel at its first session, and the work which, it is anticipated, will remain to be done, it is most likely that the second session will request the continuation of such work. If such a decision were taken, an additional budgetary allocation would need to be made for 1999. Thus, travel and subsistence for 10 experts attending one formal and one informal meeting will be required in the estimated amount of US$ 98,000; consultant services in an estimated amount of US$ 20,000 and interpretation services at an estimated cost of US$ 15,000, for a total of US$ 133,000.

16. By its decision 16/COP.1 on the work programme of the CST, the COP decided that, at each session, the CST will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention and that the first such issue will be traditional knowledge. By its decision 20/COP.1, the Conference decided to devote a full additional day to the topic. Accordingly, it is likely that a further possible subject to be entrusted to an ad hoc panel could relate to traditional and local knowledge, technology, know-how and practices to follow up on such a session. In the absence however of a decision by the Conference having immediate budgetary implications, no financial provision is contained in this document; should the Conference decide to establish an ad hoc group of experts on this matter, the related financial implications will be submitted to the Conference for incorporation into the budget decision.

17. In summary, therefore, additional provision for 1999 in the amount of US$ 133,000 will be required to cover the cost, in 1999, of the continuation of work on benchmarks and indicators, pursuant to decision 22/COP.1.

18. Four Professional posts (2 P-5, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) and one General Service post will be assigned to this programme, at an estimated cost of US$ 442,000 for 1999. In addition, it is expected to have the assistance of a Senior Scientific Officer at the P-5 level, on a non-reimbursable secondment basis. Other than staff costs, the estimates include provision for consultants and travel, in a total amount of US$ 100,000. Total expenditures for this programme are therefore estimated at US$ 675,000 to be met from the core budget.

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

(Legislative basis: CCD articles 19, 23.2(b) and (c); 26.1, 26.6 and 26.7; 22.2(a) and (b); regional implementation annexes for Africa (article 18.4), Asia (article 8.3); and Latin American and the Caribbean (article 7.2); Northern Mediterranean (article 3); INCD decision 9/9)

Table 6. Summary of requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core	Supplementary Fund	Total
Staff costs	*1,210.0*	-	*1,210.0*
Other personnel-related costs	-	*250.0*	*250.0*
Consultants and Experts	*53.0*	*759.0*	*812.0*
Travel of participants and representatives	-	*1,099.0*	*1,099.0*
Travel of staff	*121.0*	*392.0*	*513.0*
Contractual services	-	*55.0*	*55.0*
General operating expenses	-	*20.0*	*20.0*
Supplies and materials	-	*15.0*	*15.0*
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	-	*35.0*	*35.0*
Grants	-	*3,512.0*	*3,512.0*
Total	**1,384.0**	**6,137.0**	**7,521.0**

Table 7. Summary of staff requirements for facilitation and coordination

	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
A. Professional category and above			
P-5	*3*	-	*3*
P-4	*3*	-	*3*
P-3	*3*	-	*3*
P-2/P-1	-	*2*	*2*
Subtotal A	9	2	11
B. General Service category	*4*	-	*4*
Total (A + B)	13	2 *	15

* It is foreseen to have the assistance of two Junior Professional Officers (P-2) provided through donor contributions in kind.

1. Programme of work

19. The objectives and proposed work programme under this heading were described in paragraphs 31 to 38 of document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1. The related budget estimates for 1999 contained in that document provided for a total of approximately US$ 9,000,000 for this programme, of which some US$ 2,000,000 would be financed by the core budget and the remaining US$ 7,000,000 by the Supplementary Fund. This reflected the distinction between resources needed, on the one hand, to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention and, at the same time, maintain a minimum capacity for planning, programming and evaluating support provided to affected country Parties at their request and, on the other, to provide specific support requested by those Parties. The former would be a part of the core budget, while the latter would be financed by the Supplementary Fund. That rationale continues to be applicable, and is of especial application to this programme. As regards activities which are proposed to be financed by the Supplementary Fund, it should be recalled that COP 1 had been seized of a necessarily tentative outline; more definitive proposals are submitted hereunder. In summary, the revised estimates contained in this document amount to a total of US$ 7,521,000 (US$ 1,384,000 to be met by the core budget and US$ 6,137,000 by the Supplementary Fund), or a reduction close to 16 per cent in the estimates initially submitted to COP 1.

Interregional activities

20. In addition to, and in order to strengthen, the activities described below for each of the four main geographical regions, it will be necessary to ensure overall coordination between those regions on CCD matters, and to provide policy guidance and necessary monitoring and evaluation, in particular, to ensure that activities undertaken have a consistent and long-term approach to capacity building.

21. As regards specific activities at the interregional level, it is likely that joint interregional requests could emerge in terms of financial support to meetings of representatives of Parties and of expert groups to promote interregional cooperation. Thus, at the global level, support could be provided to permit the participation of a selected number of representatives of Parties to review the monitoring aspects of consultative processes (US$ 60,000 for travel and US$ 10,000 for consultancies) as well as to develop guidelines and recommendations for a capacity building approach which is coherent among national, subregional and regional action programmes and among multilateral and bilateral agencies providing support for similar purposes. Support might also be provided for developing a programme of studies jointly with concerned agencies and for conducting a workshop on the relationships between climate change (El Niño) and land degradation. The cost of these activities could be estimated at US$ 200,000 in consultancies for four studies and US$ 180,000 for the workshop (including US$ 50,000 in consultancies, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff, US$ 20,000 for publication, translation and external interpretation, and US$ 100,000 for travel of participants).

Africa

22. At the *national* level, requests can be anticipated in respect of facilitating:

(a) Awareness-raising activities to enable the launching of consultative processes and other national activities involving the local populations, national stakeholders and relevant partners (the cost for five meetings can be estimated at US$ 75,000, including US$ 50,000 in grants and US$ 25,000 for travel of staff);

(b) Capacity building: strengthening of national structures, development of training programmes for focal points and project managers, and review of the existing legal and budgetary framework. This support would be provided in terms of funds for the recruitment of national consultants, for the travel abroad of

experts and for grants to organize and conduct workshops. Related outlays are estimated at US$ 395,000 including US$ 53,000 for consultancies, US$ 45,000 for travel of participants and US$ 297,000 in grants;

(c) Support to the consultative and participative process to elaborate national action programmes. Such support would be in the form of funding for meetings and consultancies as well as participation of secretariat staff. Related costs can be estimated at US$ 250,000, including US$ 180,000 in grants, US$ 50,000 for consultancies and US$ 20,000 for travel of staff;

(d) Support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs): encouraging the participation of NGOs in Convention activities at the national level through facilitating the holding of NGO forums; supporting the institutional capacity of NGOs to contribute to national action programmes; financing NGO pilot projects aimed at encouraging or establishing south-south, north-south and Government-NGO partnerships; assisting projects aimed at strengthening the role of women and youth in the implementation of the Convention and projects aimed at strengthening NGO networking; supporting the preparation of local language materials and tools for use by NGOs to raise awareness of the Convention and also activities celebrating the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; encouraging projects aimed at raising awareness of participatory development methodologies and the integration of these methodologies into action programmes (US$ 100,000 in grants);

(e) Information support: assistance to affected countries in compiling and communicating information on issues relating to combating desertification, and to the implementation of the Convention; facilitating the development of mechanisms for the collection and exchange of data; promoting the networking of CCD focal points and related partners, at an estimated outlay of US$ 85,000 in grants;

(f) Research programme support: assistance in the organization and convening of workshops on specific national research needs; setting up inventories of relevant national technical and research expertise; promoting the exchange of relevant research data between concerned national public, private, governmental and intergovernmental organizations; facilitating electronic networking of concerned academic and other institutions (related costs can be estimated at US$ 85,000, including US$ 76,500 in grants and US$ 8,500 for consultancies).

23. At the *subregional* level, it should be recalled that a number of subregional organizations (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community, Union du Maghreb Arabe) have undertaken, in collaboration with the secretariat, various significant activities towards the formulation of subregional action programmes. Future activities at the subregional level could be expected to include support towards:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes, leading to partnership agreements, through subregional consultations involving all relevant partners and stakeholders, at an estimated cost of US$ 320,000, covering travel of participants (US$ 240,000) and of staff (US$ 50,000), and external translation and interpretation (US$ 30,000);

(b) Organization of awareness campaigns targeting relevant decision-makers and partners such as intergovernmental organizations and media, and the preparation of awareness-raising materials, through the provision of grants (US$ 120,000);

(c) Design of training programmes for focal points in the subregional organizations (US$ 56,000 for consultancies and US$ 32,000 in grants, for a total of US$ 88,000);

(d) Promotion of synergy and complementarity between national and subregional action programmes as well as of interregional cooperation through e.g. the initiation of integrated rural pilot projects (US$ 128,000 in grants, US$ 18,500 for travel of staff and US$ 18,500 for consultancies, for a total of US$ 165,000);

(e) Establishment of sustainable institutional networking related to combating desertification, at an estimated outlay in grants of US$ 170,000;

(f) Organization and convening of subregional workshops and seminars on specific subjects such as the role of women, the involvement of the private sector and the role of academic institutions, and subregional facilitation funds (US$ 85,000 for travel of participants, US$ 8,500 for travel of staff and US$ 8,500 in grants, for a total of US$ 102,000);

(g) Participation of NGO representatives at intergovernmental subregional meetings, and the strengthening of NGO capacity to contribute to the subregional process (US$ 225,000 comprising, US$ 120,000 for travel of NGO participants, US$ 30,000 for travel of staff and US$ 75,000 in grants).

24. At the *regional* level and with a view to developing the regional action programme process, the secretariat could be expected to assist African partners through:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes at the regional level and of the formulation and follow-up of the implementation of the regional action programme in Africa, with the involvement of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, major cooperating partners and the private sector (US$ 160,000 in grants, US$ 25,000 for the travel of participants and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff, for a total of US$ 190,000);

(b) Establishment of a regional coordination unit, which would facilitate access to information on appropriate technologies, know-how and experience; assist in the elaboration of an information system on CCD activities; and in the organization of regional meetings to identify priority regional projects (US$ 100,000 for an officer at the P-4 level and US$ 150,000 in grants);

(c) Facilitation, in close collaboration with other concerned organizations, of the preparation of thematic studies and of policy dialogue meetings on issues linked to implementation (US$ 26,000 for consultancies, US$ 14,000 for travel of participants and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff, for a total of US$ 45,000);

(d) Support to the publication of an activity report for Africa (US$ 15,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 in grants, for a total of US$ 25,000);

(e) Support to NGO participation at intergovernmental meetings, and strengthening NGO capacity to contribute to the regional process, particularly the thematic workshops (US$ 35,000 for travel of NGO representatives, US$ 5,000 for travel of staff and US$ 50,000 in grants, for a total of US$ 90,000).

Asia

25. At the *national* level, it is anticipated that requests for assistance could emerge under the following headings:

(a) Provision of substantive support to, and financing participation in, national CCD seminars in approximately five countries (US$ 50,000 in grants, US$ 10,000 in consultancies and US$ 25,000 for travel of staff, or a total of US$ 85,000);

(b) Design and implementation of five pilot projects for institutional support/capacity building, to strengthen national focal points leadership (US$ 530,000, comprising US$ 500,000 in grants and US$ 30,000 for consultancies to assist in the preparation of the exercise);

(c) Development of a training module, at an estimated cost of US$ 30,000 for consultancies, and support to the holding of a training workshop (US$ 50,000 for travel of participants and US$ 15,000 for travel of staff);

(d) Setting up of a model for information support to national action programmes through the establishment of a database and data collection system (US$ 10,000 for consultancies);

(e) Translation of the CCD into local languages (US$ 5,000 for external translation); and

(f) NGO support: encouraging the participation of NGOs in Convention activities at the national level through facilitating the holding of NGO forums; supporting the institutional capacity of NGOs to contribute to national action programmes; financing NGO pilot projects aimed at encouraging or establishing south-south, north-south and Government-NGO partnerships; assisting projects aimed at strengthening the role of women and youth in the implementation of the Convention and projects aimed at strengthening NGO networking; supporting the preparation of local language materials and tools for use by NGOs to raise awareness of the Convention and also activities celebrating the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; encouraging projects aimed at raising awareness of participatory development methodologies and the integration of these methodologies into action programmes (US$ 100,000 in grants).

26. At the *subregional* level, in the light of experience it can be anticipated that requests for assistance might emerge for:

(a) The provision of substantive and financial support for two meetings of experts to develop a framework of subregional and interregional cooperation between countries at an estimated total cost of US$ 200,000 (2 x US$ 90,000 in grants, US$ 10,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff); and

(b) The organization of a subregional consultation of NGOs in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to enhance NGO subregional cooperation and the interactions between the States and the concerned elements of the civil society for the implementation of national action programmes at an estimated total cost of US$ 117,000 (US$ 7,000 for consultancies, US$ 10,000 for travel of secretariat staff and US$ 100,000 in grants).

27. At the *regional* level, requests for support might entail:

(a) Provision of substantive and financial support to three inaugural thematic programme network meetings for the regional action programme for Asia (US$ 15,000 for travel of staff and US$ 270,000 in grants, for a total of US$ 285,000);

(b) Preparation of thematic programme network meetings 4, 5 and 6 of the regional action programme for Asia (US$ 15,000 for consultancies);

(c) Support to a meeting of selected national focal points in Asia (US$ 70,000, including US$ 65,000 for travel of participants and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff).

Latin America and the Caribbean

28. At the *national* level, it is anticipated that support would continue to be provided for:

(a) Awareness-raising activities: the organization and hosting of five awareness workshops in five countries of the region with the aim of education and informing all relevant agents, agencies and the public at large, thereby creating the necessary base for national and popular participation in the future activities on implementation. The total estimated cost for these meetings is US$ 65,000, including US$ 40,000 in grants and US$ 25,000 in travel of staff;

(b) Formulation of national action programmes: support would be required for the formulation of national action programmes in six countries of the region in order to assist them to develop programmes reflecting the problems and find solutions to them. This will require the assistance of professional consultancies (US$ 50,000);

(c) Capacity building: training at all levels, in particular for project managers and field workers, the creation of adequate national structures and the strengthering of existing ones, the support of knowledgeable local technicians and the strengthening of the capacity of focal points are some of the urgent needs for which support would be required in the region. For this purpose support would be given to five countries by way of grants (US$ 150,000). These would be required for necessary outside expertise for the organization of specific training programmes covering the aforementioned areas, and for capacity building at the focal point level; and

(d) NGOs: supporting the capacity building of NGOs to facilitate their full participation in the implementation process at the national level is needed, since many lack the required capacity to do so. Special assistance would be given to NGOs working on the involvement of youth and women in the implementation of the Convention. Support to NGOs to allow for their full participation in the creation of national action plans is also required (US$ 100,000 in grants).

29. To enable effective action to be taken at the *subregional* level, the following activities would be undertaken:

(a) Support for subregional action programmes: organization and hosting of two subregional workshops for the formulation of subregional action programmes to address specific problems at those levels and further enhance coordination and cooperation among the respective Parties, as well as involving all relevant stakeholders in those subregions in the process. The estimated cost would be US$ 150,000 (US$ 70,000 in grants, US$ 65,000 for travel of participants and US$ 25,000 for travel of staff);

(b) Support to NGOs: facilitation of participation of NGOs in the above-mentioned subregional workshops so that the subregional action plans can be as comprehensively developed as possible with the input of the NGOs. The estimated cost is US$ 45,000, including US$ 30,000 for travel of NGO representatives and US$ 15,000 for travel of staff; and

(c) A grant of US$ 30,000 to NGOs for the strengthening of their capacity for better and more effective participation in the subregional process.

30. At the *regional* level, support would be given to the following activities:

(a) Organization of the Fifth Regional Meeting of the CCD and the Second Workshop for Focal Points in Lima, Peru. The estimated cost of this exercise is US$ 400,000, including US$ 60,000 in grants, US$ 80,000 for travel of participants, US$ 30,000 for travel of staff and US$ 30,000 for consultancies;

(b) NGOs: there is need to support NGO participation in the above-mentioned meeting, as they are now full partners in the implementation process and have considerable input to make to this meeting. The estimated cost is US$ 35,000 for travel of NGO representatives and a further US$ 20,000 in grants to support capacity building to enable full participation by the NGOs;

(c) Establishing a regional coordinating unit to be based at the UNEP, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico at a total cost for 1999 of US$ 220,000, comprising US$ 150,000 in personnel costs for one P-4 and two GS; US$ 20,000 for communications, US$ 15,000 for supplies, and US$ 35,000 for equipment and miscellaneous services. The amount of US$ 220,000 to be met from the Supplementary Fund would be provided from funds earmarked for this purpose. To date, the Government of Mexico has already pledged US$ 20,000 to enable activities under this heading to commence in 1998.

Northern Mediterranean

31. In the light of article 9 of the applicable annex, support to activities in this region does not include financial assistance to Parties. Substantive support will, however, be provided on request. One such example of substantive support can be envisaged in terms of preparatory activities to structure cooperation between neighbouring countries, involving some US$ 20,000 in consultancies.

32. At the *national* level, support can be envisaged in terms of support to NGOs and awareness-raising and information campaigns. The objective would be to raise awareness and generate interest through the sensitization of the public at large. Specific support could be provided through the holding of two NGO forums which would promote the institutional capacity of two NGOs to contribute to national action programmes; through a pilot project to enhance the role of women and youth; through a further pilot project to demonstrate step-by-step action leading from local-level input to its incorporation in a national action programme; and through assistance in the preparation of local language materials for the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (US$ 60,000 in grants).

33. At the *subregional* level, assistance can be envisaged to support the holding of two NGO meetings and to provide two grants to NGOs in a project designed to replicate success stories and to raise awareness, particularly in areas of special NGO concern such as indigenous knowledge, local technologies and the enhancement of the role of women (US$ 20,000 in grants, US$ 20,000 for travel of NGO representatives and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff, for a total of US$ 45,000).

34. At the *regional* level, further assistance can be envisaged in terms of sponsoring the participation of NGO representatives in selected events and strengthening their capacity to participate in the regional process (US$ 30,000 for travel of NGO representatives, US$ 5,000 for travel of staff and US$ 10,000 in grants, for a total of US$ 45,000).

Other countries

35. This heading covers affected countries in Europe which fall under none of the regional annexes but have expressed an interest in combating desertification within the scope of the CCD. Activities would include:

(a) Support to the process of preparation of national action programmes (US$ 17,000 including US$ 10,000 for consultancies and US$ 7,000 for travel of staff);

(b) Financing of national awareness seminars in five countries (US$ 73,000, comprising US$ 60,000 in grants and US$ 13,000 for travel of staff); and

(c) Facilitation of the consultative process and transboundary cooperation among interested countries, including the holding of an expert forum (US$ 60,000, comprising US$ 10,000 for consultancies, US$ 40,000 for travel of experts and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff).

2. Budgetary requirements

Core budget

36. The unit would be staffed with 13 posts (3 P-5, 3 P-4, 3 P-3 and 4 General Service) at an estimated cost for 1999 of US$ 1,210,000. Core budget requirements will also arise in respect of consultancies, including travel, to assist in the preparation of draft national, subregional and regional action programmes (US$ 53,000) and for travel of staff to the headquarters and regional offices of concerned intergovernmental organizations for consultations and coordination (US$ 121,000). Total core requirements for 1999 for this programme are therefore estimated at US$ 1,384,000.

Supplementary Fund

37. Furthermore, the activities outlined in paragraphs 20 to 35 above can give rise to requirements estimated at US$ 6,137,000 (US$ 450,000 for interregional activities, US$ 2,780,000 for Africa, US$ 1,512,000 for Asia, US$ 107,500 for Latin America and the Caribbean, US$ 170,000 for the Northern Mediterranean and US$ 150,000 for other countries).

Summary

38. In summary therefore, requirements under this programme for 1999 are estimated at US$ 7,521,000, comprising US$ 1,384,000 under the core budget and the remaining US$ 6,137,000 from the Supplementary Fund.

E. External relations and public information

(Legislative basis: CCD articles 19.1(a), 22.2(h) and (i), and 23.2(d))

Table 8. Summary of requirements for external relations and public information (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core	Supplementary Fund	Total
Staff costs	*323.0*	-	*323.0*
Other personnel-related costs	-	*285.3*	*285.3*
Consultants and experts	*43.0*	*97.0*	*140.0*
Travel of participants and representatives	-	*270.0*	*270.0*
Travel of staff	*22.0*	*35.0*	*57.0*
Contractual services	-	*373.5*	*373.5*
Supplies and materials	-	*5.0*	*5.0*
Grants	-	*130.0*	*130.0*
Total	**388.0**	**1,195.8**	**1,583.8**

Table 9. Summary of staff requirements for external relations and Public Information

	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
A. Professional category and above			
P-4	*1*	-	*1*
P-3	-	-	-
P-2/P-1	*2*	-	*2*
Subtotal A	3	-	3
B. General Service category	*1*	-	*1*
Total (A + B)	**4**	-*	**4**

* Up to four temporary posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS) for the Information and Library Service to be filled over the period 1999-2000, depending on the level of contributions received.

1. Programme of work

39. A summary of the objectives of this programme is contained in paragraph 61 of document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1; in addition, it is proposed that the information systems support service, presently located in the Administration Unit, be henceforth placed within the External Relations and Public Information unit. The activities to be performed by the unit would therefore fall under the following four main headings: inter-agency coordination; coordination with non-governmental organizations; public awareness; and library and information services.

Inter-agency coordination

40. The main task will be to promote efficient working arrangements with the organizations concerned, including at the country level. The secretariat will also promote and strengthen the relationship with the secretariats of other relevant Conventions, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, in order to avoid duplication of effort. The secretariat will need to obtain and channel extensive inputs from relevant partner institutions. Any coordination mechanism established for this purpose will be conceived in such a manner that it does not constitute an additional bureaucratic layer. The objective would be to obtain as much necessary information as possible through the normal statutory reporting of the relevant agencies, and by attending and following up the meetings of their governing bodies. Additionally, a flexible ad hoc coordination mechanism, comprising representatives of the relevant secretariats and organizations, in particular the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNEP and the conventions on biological diversity (CBD), on climate change (FCCC) and on Wetlands (RAMSAR), could be convened as required in order to:

(a) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Explore the possibilities of recommending procedures, to the extent desirable and practicable, for harmonizing possible contractual cooperation agreements; and

(c) Coordinate the respective programmes of work within the context of action programmes.

41. Special attention has to be given to the strengthening of collaborative arrangements with the convention secretariats mentioned in the preceding paragraph, particularly in the information management field. In conformity with the recommendations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, the CCD secretariat intends to give special priority to the collaboration with these conventions for the enhancement of a global information capacity, which is perceived as a prerequisite for an integrated promotion of sustainable development.

Coordination with non-governmental organizations

42. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention and their contribution, as observers, to the meetings of the Parties is a necessary component of the successful implementation of the Convention. In order to facilitate the effective participation of the NGO community at all levels and in all areas of implementation of the Convention and on the basis of experience, the following activities are envisaged:

(a) Encouraging the participation of community-based organizations by developing mechanisms, in consultation with NGOs, for attracting the participation of such organizations at all levels;

(b) Providing support to, and coordinating, NGO participation at the COP: to this end, and in order to facilitate an effective and representative participation of the non-governmental community in the work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, the secretariat will continue to coordinate sponsorship for NGO participants, and to facilitate NGO preparation and coordination for the COP/NGO dialogue sessions with Governments. Related costs for 1999 in regard to COP 3 are estimated at US$ 160,000 for travel of NGO representatives on the basis of previous experience; such costs would be covered by the Supplementary Fund;

(c) Providing support to NGOs in the elaboration of programmes at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to facilitating, supporting and enhancing the capacity of NGOs to participate as stakeholders and equal partners in the implementation of the Convention at every level. The unit will act as focal point in providing this support, in close and continued contact with the relevant NGOs. The specific activities proposed are described and costed under each of the regional subprogrammes of programme D: facilitation of implementation and coordination;

(d) Providing support to NGOs at the interregional level with a view to facilitating the exchange and establishment of north/south and south/south partnerships, and the implementation of NGO initiatives in issue areas covered by the Convention and its subsidiary bodies: to this end, substantive and financial support would be provided to NGO activities which promote local area development programmes on the basis of participatory methodologies, demonstrating the effective exchange of information, experience and technologies. It is expected that there could be requests for two workshops a year on this subject and that five pilot projects a year could be supported; related costs are estimated at US$ 100,000, including US$ 80,000 in grants, US$ 10,000 in consultancies and US$ 10,000 in travel of staff. Furthermore, it is proposed to facilitate substantive and financial support to NGO initiatives aimed at contributing information and experience to the subsidiary bodies of the CCD on issue areas such as: traditional knowledge, enhancing local communities' access to national desertification funds and credit systems; assisting the establishment of local area development programmes; devising mechanisms to link science to communities and communities to science; documenting women's knowledge of drought indicators. The estimated cost of five grants for this purpose would amount to US$ 50,000;

(e) Providing institutional support to NGOs to strengthen their capacity to communicate internationally and locally, by supporting the linking up of NGOs to the World Wide Web site of the CCD, by facilitating the translation of the CCD materials into simplified versions in the local languages, and by supporting NGO representation and participation in activities of international and intergovernmental organizations which are relevant to the Convention in order to enhance the participatory approach; and

(f) Establishing a desertification NGO database in order to classify the over 450 accredited NGOs according to sector or area of work so that NGO expertise can be easily accessible.

Public awareness

43. In support of the objectives set out in CCD article 19, paragraph 3, the secretariat will continue to facilitate communication with a broad cross-section of Parties involved in combating desertification, to strengthen its information programme and to initiate new and challenging awareness-raising projects. This will include, as a permanent activity, the holding of briefings for governments, missions, agencies, United Nations bodies and research institutions in order to keep them informed of the activities being undertaken. In addition, specific awareness-raising projects are contemplated in the following four major areas:

(a) Publications and information dissemination, including the writing, editing, translation, proofreading, design, layout and printing or re-printing of information material: feature stories, short time-sensitive new items and opinion pieces, a brief history of the CCD, highlights of major issues (including implementation and follow-up), reports of major group activities and information on various other activities which are being undertaken will be prepared. Information will aim to promote and facilitate intersectoral and interregional dialogue as well as to build awareness of the problem of desertification, of its globality and its interrelations with other social and environmental issues (in particular, when appropriate, with biodiversity and climate change). It will aim both at the public at large, and at specific constituencies from time to time - in particular the media, schools and youth, women, NGOs, the private sector,

decision makers and local authorities, especially in affected countries. Addressing different constituencies will require the identification of appropriate activities and products, using existing tools and new ones. The activities proposed for 1999 are as follows:

(i) CCD information kit comprising an explanatory leaflet, 14 fact sheets, a Convention booklet, a folder and a simplified version of the Convention in seven languages. Furthermore, re-printing of the comics catalogue and comics booklet might be required. Depending on availability of funds, and upon depletion of stock, the missing items would be produced (US$ 140,000);

(ii) Down to Earth, a simplified guide to the Convention (seven languages);

(iii) CCD quarterly newsletter in English and French (US$ 12,000);

(iv) Press releases;

(v) Updated ratification lists;

(vi) Regional reports (US$ 15,000);

(vii) Flyers/pamphlets;

(viii) Translation into six languages of a youth booklet (US$ 10,000);

(ix) Teachers' kit, including new version of "Down to Earth" (youth guide), selected case studies, two comics booklets, pilot projects, at an estimated cost of US$ 214,500, comprising US$ 63,000 for consultancies and travel of experts, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 141,500 for contractual services.

(b) Events, campaigns and other public initiatives designed to raise awareness, generate interest and promote and educate the public at large, including but not limited to the celebration on 17 June of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: proposed activities for 1999, at an estimated cost of US$ 149,000, comprising US$ 110,000 for travel of participants, US$ 24,000 for consultancies and US$ 15,000 for travel of staff, could include the following:

(i) Sports event;

(ii) Youth event;

(iii) Appointment of an honorary CCD ambassador on desertification;

(iv) Round-table discussions on desertification;

(v) Desertification/comics picture exhibition;

(vi) Press seminars, regionally based briefings, press conferences and journalists' tours;

(vii) Pilot project with the conventions on biological diversity and climate change for awareness raising in Africa;

(viii) Musical events;

(ix) Exhibits.

(c) Television and radio programmes: it is proposed to prepare a video report on desertification designed for television (US$ 30,000); and

(d) Advertising and promotional activities: these activities would complement the themes of programmed events and could include promotional items to raise the profile of desertification. The collaboration of the private sector in funding these activities will be sought. However, an amount of US$ 25,000 is proposed to produce miscellaneous items (pens, pencils, caps, posters) for distribution at relevant events.

Information and library services

44. The purpose of the information services is to strengthen the role of the secretariat in facilitating the flow of information among the key participants in the CCD process, in particular national focal points of the Parties to the Convention as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, in their efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention. The system will deal with information in various forms relevant to the specific needs of national focal points on policy-making, programme development and implementation, science and technology, education, training and awareness, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The secretariat will play the role of a facilitator and clearing house in providing information to partners, in order to more effectively fulfil its mandate in the field of providing capacity building and assistance to Parties, for their communication of information and review of implementation of the Convention. Account will be taken of the specific requests for information formulated in decisions 11/COP.1, 15/COP.1, 19/COP.1 and 21/COP.1.

45. In order to focus effectively on the above objectives, the implementation of the information system will be product-driven and result-oriented, allowing management to perceive and quantify the value of the information systems programme. For example, an electronic forum has been initiated for the Latin America and Caribbean region, thus permitting an effective exchange of information among key participants in the region. The information exchange has so far included enquiries, meeting schedules and technical reports. Similar activities are planned for Africa, Asia and the Northern Mediterranean and for the CST work programme. As a second stage, it is expected that the electronic forums will evolve towards regional-based country profile information clearing houses, including, *inter alia*, the status of ratification/entry into force, the status and content of national action programmes, projects, relevant national legislation, geographical and scientific data, concerned institutions and experts.

46. Cost-effective ways of disseminating information on the CCD process are slowly being made available through Internet; with some additional resources, this capacity could be greatly enhanced. Although documents are already made available on the Web, technical and institutional information of importance to national focal points could be quickly sent to them. Electronic forums for each regional programme can be fully developed. A more immediate concern is the timely and regular maintenance of the present databases on the CST roster of experts, national focal points, meeting participants, country profiles and NGOs. Additionally, the service will provide support to, and work closely with UN/DESA, UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR, IFAD, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, convention secretariats, regional development banks and bilateral agencies which contribute to the work of the Convention.

47. The relocation of the secretariat to Bonn will require adequate preparation, during 1998, and close collaboration with the host Government as well as with the partners co-located in Haus Carstanjen, namely UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV).

48. As regards the library, the CCD library unit will work closely with the staff of other partner organizations to provide a physical facility where the reference materials generated by the secretariat will be kept and made available, initially to staff and gradually to focal points, researchers and the public.

The unit will serve as part of the foundation of the CCD public awareness programme.

49. Internally, it is intended to concentrate on new software standards that are more powerful but simpler to use. Since most staff will need to adapt to the new standards, selective training will be provided.

2. Budgetary requirements

Core budget

50. The programme would be carried out by the External Relations and Public Information Unit, comprising 1 P-4, 2 P-2 and 1 General Service posts, at an estimated cost for 1999 of US$ 323,000. Other estimated core costs comprise US$ 34,000 in respect of consultancies (US$ 12,000) to compile information and prepare assessment reports, and travel of staff (US$ 22,000); and US$ 31,000 for public awareness in respect of editing and consultancies to compile information, prepare assessment reports and write press articles. Total core requirements for this programme for 1999 are therefore estimated at US$ 388,000. As regards information and library services, the entire computer equipment, software and maintenance to be installed in Bonn will be made possible by an in-kind contribution from the German Government; hence, no budget provision needs to be made for computer equipment and software in 1999. The related staff would be a charge to the Supplementary Fund (see paragraph 51 below).

Supplementary Fund

51. In paragraphs 42 and 43 above, specific projects have been costed, amounting to a total of US$ 905,500. Furthermore, as explained in paragraph 50 above, the Information and Library Service would require additional personnel resources for 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS at an estimated cost of US$ 285,300 for 1999; the extent to which these posts are filled will depend on the level of contributions received. Provision is also required for library subscriptions (US$ 5,000). The total expected to be funded from the Supplementary Fund thus amounts to US$ 1,195,800.

Summary

52. In summary therefore, requirements for this programme for 1999 are estimated at US$ 1,583,800, comprising US$ 388,000 under the core budget and US$ 1,195,800 to be financed from the Supplementary Fund.

F. Global Mechanism

(Legislative basis: CCD article 21, paragraphs 4 to 7)

Table 10. Summary of requirements for the Global Mechanism (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
Grants	*1,003.0*	-	*1,003.0*
Total	**1,003.0**	-	**1,003.0**

53. Pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5 of the Convention, the Global Mechanism is to report to the Conference, beginning at its second session, on its activities. The purpose of that report is elaborated in decision 24/COP.1, annex, paragraph 5. Furthermore, and as required by decision 24/COP.1, paragraph 3, a memorandum of understanding between the COP and IFAD has been developed and will be submitted to COP 2 for its consideration and adoption. In the meantime,

no change is proposed in the allocation of US$ 1,003,000 to the Global Mechanism for 1999 as approved in decision 6/COP.1.

G. Administration

(Legislative basis: CCD articles 22.2(g) and 23.2(e))

Table 11. Summary of requirements for administration (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core	Supplementary Fund	Total
Staff costs	*396.0*	-	*396.0*
Other personnel-related costs	*89.0*	*55.0*	*144.0*
Travel of staff	*16.5*	-	*16.5*
General operating expenses	*464.0*	-	*464.0*
Supplies and materials	*35.0*	-	*35.0*
Total	**1,000.5**	**55.0**	**1,055.5**

Table 12. Summary of staff requirements for administration

	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Total
A. Professional category and above		-	
P-5	*1*	-	*1*
P-3	*1*	-	*1*
Subtotal A	2	-	2
B. General Service category	3	-	3
Total (A + B)	5	-	5

1. Programme of work

54. The objective of this programme is to provide adequate and timely personnel, financial, and general services support to the work programme of the COP and its secretariat.

55. By decision 3/COP.1, the Conference, *inter alia*, decided to accept the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention secretariat. Pursuant to this decision, detailed arrangements have been worked out whereby the secretariat will operate within a wide delegation, by the United Nations, of administrative authority. As regards personnel matters, decisions on the recruitment, promotion, transfer and termination of CCD staff will be taken by the Executive Secretary and implemented by the United Nations Department of Management. As regards financial matters, the budget exercise will fall entirely within the purview of the Conference and its secretariat, while the United Nations will provide accounting services, expenditure control and internal and external audit.

56. Within this framework, the secretariat shall:

(a) Prepare and submit biennial programme and budget proposals for review and approval by the COP;

(b) Administer and control the budget, once approved, and provide periodic reports thereon to the COP, as well as prepare regular internal reports for management and control purposes to the head of the secretariat and unit heads;

(c) Administer, control and report on extrabudgetary funds and programmes;

(d) Initiate action to recruit staff, including temporary staff and consultants;

(e) Estimate meeting service requirements and ensure provision of those services, in liaison with the host organization;

(f) Manage the travel programme;

(g) Ensure support to the secretariat and provide central control in respect of requirements for furniture, equipment, communications and other operating requirements; and

(h) Initiate procurement action as required.

57. Collaborative arrangements on administrative matters will need to be worked out with the other organizations located in Haus Carstanjen, and discussions have already been initiated on this issue.

2. Budgetary requirements

Core budget

58. It is envisaged that the activities under this programme would be undertaken by a unit headed by a P-5 and comprising, in addition, one P-3 and three General Service posts. Related core budget requirements for 1999 are estimated at US$ 396,000.

59. In addition to staffing, provision under the core budget will need to be made for the following items under the central control of the Administration Unit:

(a) General temporary assistance (US$ 79,000) required for peak workload periods, preparation for the sessions of the COP, administrative liaison offices in those duty stations where liaison arrangements are in place with national organizations and permanent missions; and replacement of staff on sick or maternity leave; as well as overtime for General Service staff arising from the sessions of the COP (US$ 10,000);

(b) Travel of staff to liaise with United Nations headquarters for consultations and advice on administrative matters (US$ 16,500);

(c) general operating expenses (US$ 464,000) including:

(i) Maintenance of office premises in Bonn, either shared with other organizations or directly chargeable to CCD (US$ 191,000 for security, utilities, maintenance and third party insurance);

(ii) Internet subscription (US$ 20,000) and communication costs (US$ 152,000), comprising cable and telex charges (US$ 8,000), long-distance calls (US$ 113,000), postage (US$ 18,000) and pouches (US$ 13,000), including costs arising directly from session of COP 3;

(iii) Rental and maintenance of office automation and data processing equipment (US$ 20,000);

(iv) Insurance for claims in respect of service-incurred injury or death (US$ 35,000); and

(v) Miscellaneous services such as local freight costs, internal office moves and transport (US$ 20,000); as well as vehicle maintenance (US$ 4,000);

(d) Supplies and materials, including photocopying paper, stationery, meeting supplies, and gasoline (US$ 35,000);

(e) Maintenance of common premises in 1999 in those duty stations where liaison arrangements are now in effect with Parties, permanent missions and non-governmental organizations (US$ 22,000).

(f) Pro memoria provision for reimbursement of taxes to staff members who may be subject to national taxation in respect of their CCD emoluments.

Supplementary Fund

60. In addition to the core budget requirements set out above, temporary assistance in the amount of US$ 55,000 as a charge to the Supplementary Fund is foreseen for peak workload periods.

Summary

61. In summary therefore, activities in 1999 under this programme are estimated at US$ 1,055,500, of which US$ 1,000,500 would be charged to the core budget and US$ 55,000 to the Supplementary Fund.

H. Other expenditure items

Overhead

62. Advice has been received from the United Nations Department of Management to the effect that all three UNCCD accounts -the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund- will be subject to a 13 per cent programme support charge. Thus, on the basis of an expenditure level for the core budget of US$ 5,117,500 as proposed in this report, the programme support charge can be estimated at US$ 665,300.

Working capital reserve

63. COP 1 determined that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges (decision 6/COP.1, paragraph 7). Thus, on the basis of an expenditure level of US$ 5,782,800, including overhead charges, an amount of US$ 480,000 will need to be appropriated to constitute the working capital reserve.

I. Offsetting contributions

Contributions by the host Government

64. As reflected in the relevant decision of the Conference (decision 6/COP.1, footnote (b)), the Government of Germany has offered DM 1,000,000 for Convention related events and DM 1,000,000 to the secretariat beyond its commitments as a Party. Thus, at the current rate of exchange utilized by the United Nations (DM 1.83 to the US dollar), each of these contributions would result in an offset to the core budget for 1999 in the amount of US$ 546,400, or a total of US$ 1,093,000.

Contribution by the United Nations in respect of programme support charges

65. After discussion, the United Nations Secretariat has agreed to fund in 1999, on an experimental basis, posts or activities in the administration programme up to an estimated amount of US$ 213,000. This amount will constitute an offset to core budget expenditure.

Annex I

Table A.1. Summary of requirements by programme and income for 1999 (Thousands of US dollars)

Expenditure items	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Special Fund	Total
Policy-making organs	*42.0*	-	*900.0*	*942.0*
Executive Direction and Management	*625.0*	*55.0*	-	*680.0*
Substantive support to COP	*675.0*	-	-	*675.0*
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	*1,384.0*	*6,137.0*	-	*7,521.0*
External Relations and Public Information	*388.0*	*1,195.8*	-	*1,583.8*
Global Mechanism	*1,003.0*	-	-	*1,003.0*
Administration	*1,000.5*	*55.0*	-	*1,055.5*
Subtotal programmes	**5,117.5**	**7,442.8**	**900.0**	**13,460.3**
Overhead	*665.3*	*967.6*	*117.0*	*1,749.9*
Work. cap. reserve	*480.0*	-	-	*480.0*
Total expenditure	**6,262.8**	**8,410.4**	**1,017.0**	**15,690.2**
Income items				
Contr. from Host Government	*1,093.0*	-	-	-
Allotment from overhead	*213.0*	-	-	-
Total income	1,306.0	-	-	-
Net total	**4,956.8**	-	-	-

Annex II

Table A.2. Summary of staff requirements

	Core budget	Supplementary fund	Total
A. Professional category and above			
Head	*1*	-	*1*
D-2	-	-	-
D-1	*1*	-	*1*
P-5	*6*	*1*	*7*
P-4	*4*	-	*4*
P-3	*6*	-	*6*
P-2/P-1	*3*	*2*	*5*
Subtotal A	**21**	**3**	**24**
B. General Service category	*11*	*1*	*12*
Total (A + B)	**32**	**4 ***	**36**

* Secondments or support arrangements are also being negotiated with a number of donor countries and international organizations. Additionally, some temporary posts will in all likelihood be required later in 1999, and in the 2000-2001 biennium. The filling of these posts will depend on the level of supplementary funds received. These posts have been identified throughout the text of this document.

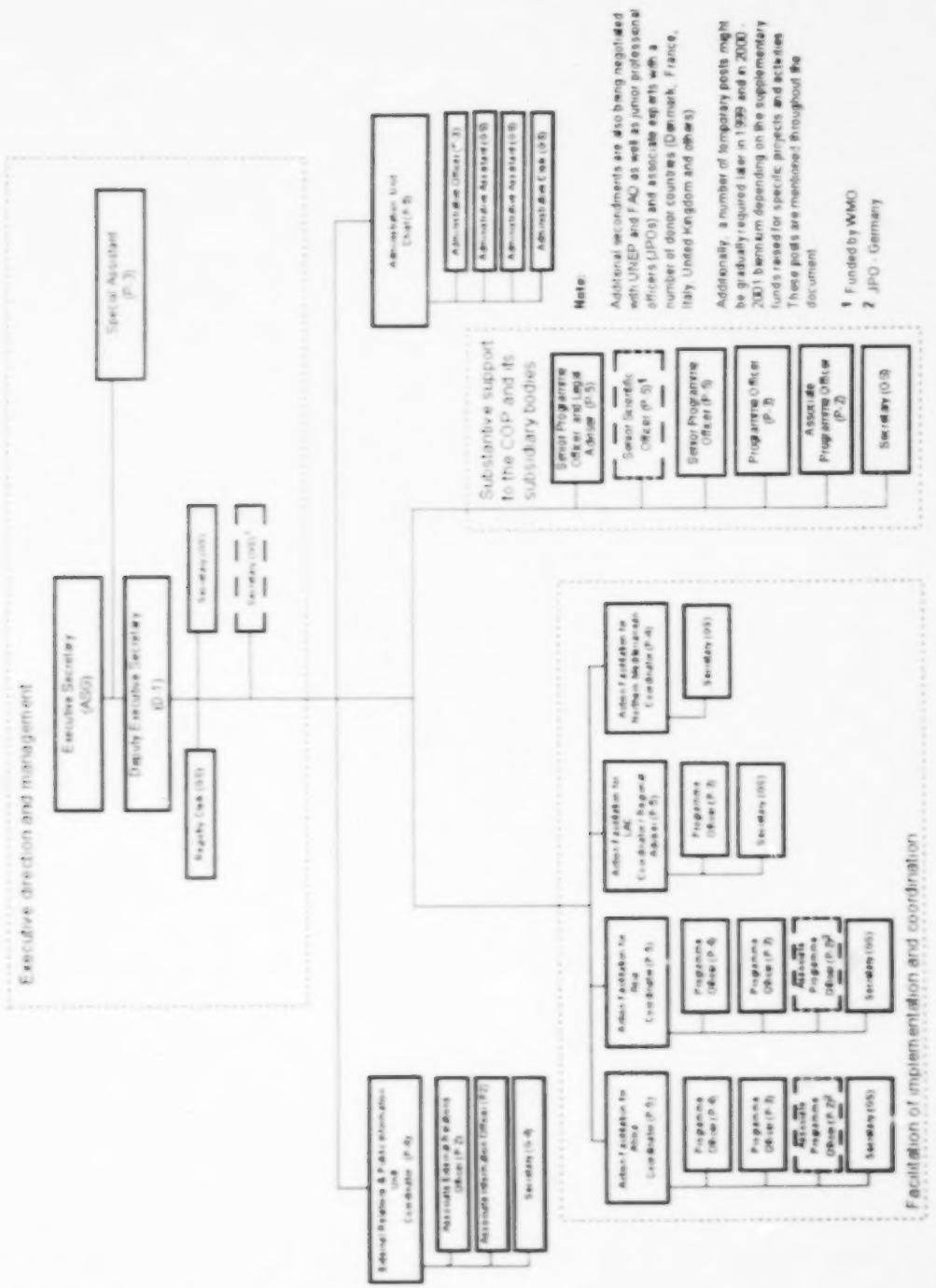
Annex III

Table A.3. Summary of estimates by object of expenditure (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	Core budget	Supplementary Fund	Special Fund	Total
Staff costs	*2,851.0*	-	-	*2,851.0*
Other personnel-related costs	*89.0*	*645.3*	-	*734.3*
Consultants and experts	*291.0*	*856.0*	-	*1,147.0*
Travel of staff	*355.5*	*427.0*	-	*782.5*
Travel of participants and representatives	-	*1,369.0*	*900.0*	*2,269.0*
Contractual services	*15.0*	*428.5*	-	*443.5*
General operating expenses	*464.0*	*20.0*	-	*484.0*
Hospitality	*14.0*	-	-	*14.0*
Supplies and materials	*35.0*	*20.0*		*55.0*
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	-	*35.0*	-	*35.0*
Grants	*1,003.0*	*3,642.0*	-	*4,645.0*
Total	**5,117.5**	**7,442.8**	**900.0**	**13,460.3**

Annex IV

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE CCD SECRETARIAT FOR 1999


Executive direction and management
Executive Secretary (ASG)
Deputy Executive Secretary (D-1)
Special Assistant (P-3)
Secretary (GS)
Secretary (GS)
Deputy Unit (GS)
Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies
Senior Programme Officer and Legal Adviser (P-5)
Senior Scientific Officer (P-5)1
Senior Programme Officer (P-5)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Associate Programme Officer (P-2)
Secretary (GS)
Facilitation of implementation and coordination
Secretary (GS)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Secretary (GS)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Associate Programme Officer (P-2)1
Secretary (GS)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Programme Officer (P-3)
Associate Programme Officer (P-2)1
Secretary (GS)
Secretary (GS)
Secretary (GS)
Note:
Additional secondments are also being negotiated with UNEP and FAO as well as junior professional officers (JPOs) and associate experts with a number of donor countries (Denmark, France, Italy, United Kingdom and others)
Additionally, a number of temporary posts might be gradually required later in 1999 and in 2000 - 2001 biennium depending on the supplementary funds raised for specific projects and activities. These posts are mentioned throughout the document
1 Funded by WMO
2 JPO - Germany